

The Secretary of the Army is authorized to use \$275 million over the next five years to implement, with local partners, estuary habitat restoration projects that are selected from a list put together by a multi-agency Estuary Habitat Restoration Council. The Council gets the ideas for specific projects from the local communities and nongovernmental organizations that want to want to serve as partners in the projects. This is truly a collaborative process, from start to finish.

In selecting specific projects, the Secretary is directed to take into consideration a number of factors. These factors include: technical feasibility and scientific merit; cost-effectiveness; whether the project will encourage increased coordination and cooperation among federal, State, and local governments; whether the project fosters public-private partnerships; and whether the project is part of an approved estuary management or habitat restoration plan.

I am particularly pleased that special priority will be given to projects that test innovative technologies that have the potential for improving cost-effectiveness in estuary habitat restoration. These technologies are eligible to receive an increased federal cost share. Some of these technologies are now being identified and tested in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The University of New Hampshire plays an important role in the NERRS program.

This bill also ensures accountability through ongoing monitoring and evaluation. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will maintain a data base of restoration projects so that information and lessons learned from one project can be incorporated into other restoration projects. In addition, the Secretary is directed to submit to Congress two reports, after the third and fifth years of the program, a detailing the progress made under the Act. This report will allow us in the Congress, as well as the public, to assess the successes and failures of the projects and strategies developed under this Act.

S. 835 also includes important provisions dealing with the National Estuaries Program, the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Long Island Sound. I know that the Chesapeake Bay Program has been of particular importance to Senator WARNER. I am pleased that the final bill extended the authorization for these three programs.

I do want to acknowledge the important role that the National Estuaries Program (NEP) has played in raising national awareness of the value of estuary habitats. The NEP was established in 1988 and demonstrates what we can accomplish when Federal, State and local governments work in partnership. Participation in the program is voluntary and emphasizes watershed planning and community involvement. To date, 28 conservation plans under this program have been prepared for

designated estuaries. I am pleased that New Hampshire is in the process of developing its own conservation plan.

Unfortunately, the National Estuaries Program has not had sufficient resources to adequately address habitat restoration. Until now, in fact, only the development of the plans could be funded, not their implementation. S. 835 will change that. This bill will increase the authorization for the NEP from \$12 million to \$35 million annually through 2005.

I believe that this overwhelmingly bipartisan bill represents an approach to environmental policy that should be the basis for solving all environmental problems. I strongly believe that we should seek to solve environmental problems together, on a bipartisan basis, through cooperation and partnership, and not through confrontation. We should trust the States and local governments as our partners, and allow decisions that affect local communities to be made by at the local level. We must use our taxpayer dollars wisely and effectively; and we should insist on results and accountability. If we do these things, I believe we will do a better job of preserving our natural resources, cleaning up our waters, and improving our air quality.

Mr. President, the Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000 takes an important step in the right direction. It's a bill that we should all be proud of. I thank my colleagues for supporting its passage.

ACKNOWLEDGING AND SALUTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COIN COLLECTORS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 154 submitted by myself and Senator DASCHLE.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A legislation (S. Con. Res. 154) to acknowledge and salute the contributions of coin collectors.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 154) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 154

Whereas in 1982, after a period of 28 years, the Congress of the United States resumed the United States commemorative coin programs;

Whereas since 1982, 37 of the Nation's worthy institutions, organizations, foundations, and programs have been commemorated under the coin programs;

Whereas since 1982, the Nation's coin collectors have purchased nearly 49,000,000 commemorative coins that have yielded nearly \$1,800,000,000 in revenue and more than \$407,000,000 in surcharges benefitting a variety of deserving causes;

Whereas the United States Capitol has benefitted from the commemorative coin surcharges that have supported such commendable projects as the restoration of the Statue of Freedom atop the Capitol dome, the furtherance of the development of the United States Capitol Visitor Center, and the planned National Garden at the United States Botanic Gardens on the Capitol grounds;

Whereas surcharges from the year 2000 coin program commemorating the Library of Congress bicentennial benefit the Library of Congress bicentennial programs, educational outreach activities (including schools and libraries), and other activities of the Library of Congress; and

Whereas the United States Capitol Visitor Center commemorative coin program will commence in January 2001, with the surcharges designated to further benefit the Capitol Visitor Center: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress of the United States acknowledges and salutes the ongoing generosity, loyalty, and significant role that coin collectors have played in supporting our Nation's meritorious charitable organizations, foundations, institutions, and programs, including the United States Capitol, the Library of Congress, and the United States Botanic Gardens.

2002 WINTER OLYMPIC COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 816, H.R. 3679.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3679) to provide for the minting of commemorative coins to support the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Games and the programs of the United States Olympic Committee.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3679) was read the third time and passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until the hour of 3 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24. I further ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning